News Release U.S. Department of Justice United States Attorney District of Rhode Island



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## U.S. Attorney Robert Clark Corrente's Statement On Guilty Verdicts in U.S. v. Potter, et. al.

"I want to congratulate the members of the prosecution team from the U.S. Attorney's Office: Craig Moore, Lee Vilker and Paula Horsey, as well as FBI Special Agent Jim Pitcavage, for their outstanding work in putting together and presenting a complex case," U.S. Attorney Robert Clark Corrente said.

"Today is a victory for the people of Rhode Island and for the principle of public integrity. When we decided to retry the case, we did so because the issue of honest government is so critical to the operation and well-being of the State. Public figures, business owners, and everyday citizens need to feel confident that everyone is competing on a level playing field and that no one is getting special treatment in exchange for payments to political insiders. Today's verdict sends that message loud and clear."

## Background:

A federal jury in Worcester, Massachusetts, returned verdicts finding all three defendants, Nigel Potter, Daniel Bucci, and Lincoln Greyhound Park, guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. In addition, the jury found each defendant guilty of various counts of wire fraud: Nigel Potter guilty of three counts of wire fraud, not guilty of two; Daniel Bucci, guilty of

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four counts of wire fraud, not guilty of 2; and Lincoln Park guilty of two counts of wire fraud,

not guilty of two.

In September 2003, a federal grand jury in Providence returned an indictment charging

the three defendants with a scheme to bribe the Rhode Island Speaker of the House through

bonus payments to his law partner, who did legal work for Lincoln Park. The alleged objective

of the scheme was to increase the number of Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs) at Lincoln Park

and to thwart potential competition from other gambling interests, especially a proposed

Narragansett Indian Tribe casino.

A trial in Providence in February 2005 resulted in not guilty verdicts on some counts and

a hung jury on others. After U.S. Attorney Corrente decided to retry the case, U.S. District Court

Judge Mary M. Lisi granted the defendants' motion for a change of venue, citing their argument

that excessive publicity during the first trial would make it difficult to find an unbiased jury in

Rhode Island for a retrial. The second trial was moved to Worcester.

The defendants are free on bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for October 28

in U.S. District Court, Providence, before U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi. For each

count, Potter and Bucci face a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison and a \$250,000

fine. The corporation faces a maximum \$500,000 fine for each count.

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